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SOURCE Ta Kung Pao.

CROP PROSPECTS IN SHENSI, SINKIANG, HONAN, AND HOPEH, 8 JUNE 1953

Summary: Prospects for autumn crops, both for grains and cotton, are good in Shensi and Sinkiang. Winter wheat production is running from 78 to 270 catties per mou (one mou equals 1/6 acre) in Hopeh. The government made liberal loans of cash and seed for autumn crops to farmers in Honan.

20 MILLION MOU PLANTED IN SHENSI -- Tientsin, Ta Kung Pao, 8 Jun 53

Sian, 7 June (Hsin-hua) -- There are prospects for a good autumn crop in all areas of Shensi. At present, farmers are occupied with hoeing and other activities. This year more than 20 million mou in Shensi were planted with late autumn crops. In the north, the corn and kaoliang of Yen-an, Kan-ch'uan, Huang-lu, and five other hsiens are already 4 - 5 inches high; and the spiked-millet, glutinous rice and black beans are 2 - 3 inches high. For the most part, the crops are growing well. In the Kuan-chung area, where there are more than 4 million mou of cotton fields, the cotton plants are 4 - 5 inches high and have 4 - 5 leaves. In Pao-chi, Ch'ang-wu, and eight other hsiens, 220,000 mou of corn and the 170,000 mou of kaoliang have reached a height of one foot. In southern Shensi the sowing of 1,700,000 mou of paddy fields has been completed.

At present, farmers in all areas are busy hoeing autumn crops. In the north, the greater part of the autumn crop fields of Sui-ting, Mi-chih, Yen-an and I-chun hsiens have been hoed once, and in some areas, twice. The survival of the young cotton plants is assured. The cotton fields of Wei-nan and Lin-t'ung also have been hoed once. Autumn crops, including cotton, in north and central Shensi, which were hit by cold, received some damage. In all areas, however, replanting was carried out. In San-yuan Hsien, frost damaged 1,100 mou of cotton but the farmers completed replanting rapidly.

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Urumchi, 7 June (Hsin-hua) -- Crop prospects are good in Sinkiang. The spring wheat north of T'ien Shan has reached a height of one foot; and wheat in the regions south of T'ien Shan is heading. The cotton is growing and the corn and kaoliang in all areas are heading. The grain of T'u-lu-fan Hsien has survived the violent winds of May.

To obtain an abundant harvest, farmers in all areas are participating in mid-season cultivation to eliminate weeds. Many rural women have organized teams to take part in this work. In May, the wheat and oat fields of the Hotien, So-ch'e, and K'o-shih areas were weeded one to two times. The wheat fields of Urumchi and other comparatively cold regions also have been more than 50 percent weeded. In all areas farmers have begun thinning, weeding, and spreading of fertilizer on cotton, corn, and kaoliang crops. This year about 1.5 percent of the total wheat area of Sinkiang suffered damage from natural calamities, but in all such regions the farmers have replanted with other late autumn crops.

SEED LOANS SPEED PLANTING -- Tientsin, Ta Kung Pao, 8 Jun 53

K'ai-feng, 7 June (Hsin-hua) -- State-operated grain companies, cooperatives, and the People's Bank in Honan are furnishing seeds for autumn grain and issuing farm loans to the farmers to assist a portion of them in overcoming hardships caused by natural calamities.

The Honan branch of the People's Bank has issued loans totaling 500 million yuan and at present 80 percent of this amount has been distributed to rural areas. These loans will enable the farmers to buy enough seed to sow 1,500,000 mou of land.

Early in May, the Honan State-Operated Grain Company, commenced distribution of kaoliang, corn, spiked millet, and soybeans in all districts; the Lo-yang, Hsu-ch'ang, Cheng-chou and Hsin-yang special administrative districts received more than 4,500,000 catties of all types of grain seeds. So that planting will not be delayed, at present the cooperatives and the state-operated grain companies in all districts are furnishing all types of seeds to the farmers. After receiving loans from the People's Bank, many of the farmers are also able to buy the seeds they require for themselves.

HOPEH WHEAT HARVEST REPORTED -- Tientsin, Ta Kung Pao, 8 Jun 53

Pao-ting, 7 June (Hsin-hua) -- The wheat in all areas of Hopeh has ripened and the harvest is now on in the south. Some calamity stricken areas had low yields, but, for the most part, the irrigated areas of the province have an abundant harvest. The average wheat production for both irrigated and nonirrigated regions will be about 78 catties per mou.

The wheat areas in Ch'ung-chia-k'ou Special Administrative District may average 221 catties per mou for both irrigated and nonirrigated land. The irrigated wheat of the Shih-chia-chuang, suburban area may average 270 catties per mou, an increase of 60 catties over last year. The harvest may average more than 180 catties per mou in Kao-ch'eng, Luan-ch'eng, Cheng-ting, and Chao hsien in Shih-chia-chuang Special Administrative District.

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